

MEETING MINUTES
DISABLED ADVISORY COUNCIL (DAC)
SCHMEECKLE RESERVE
JULY 15, 2005

Members in attendance: Chairman Werner Burkat, Vice-Chairman John Kocourek, John Mitchell, Steve Johnson, Tom Zimmer and Dave Lato.

Members absent: Joe Greene, Jim Rutledge and Dave Stinson.

DNR staff in attendance: Dotti Krieger, Julie Amakobe, Anthonette Gilpatrick and Al Czeshinski.

Chairman Burkat called the meeting to order at approximately 10:40 a.m.

The meeting began by reviewing/approving the revised agenda that Dotti had edited and updated due to speakers canceling. The revised agenda was reviewed and approved.

Steve Johnson made a motion to approve the revised agenda. Tom Zimmer seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Next on the agenda was the review and approval of the DAC meeting minutes from April 18, 2005. A minor correction on the 2nd page, first paragraph, of the minutes where the FY 06 goals were listed. There was noted two #7 goals in the minutes, the second one should be listed as # 8.

John Kocourek made a motion to approve the minutes with correction. Dave Lato seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Agenda item - Survey results from reviewing State Parks regarding disabled turkey hunting - Dotti led the discussion. Dotti and Tom had surveyed Buckhorn State Park (SP) near Necedah. They feel this park is the most developed for disabled turkey hunting. The park is well maintained and the park staff is very helpful. Buckhorn also offers youth hunts. Tom also commented that Dotti is a pro with the Parks staff.

Dotti visited Newport SP, near Ellison Bay, and here we need to have some cooperation with the adjacent landowner/s for good quality disabled turkey hunting. The turkeys seem to congregate on the adjacent land rather than on the park land. Michelle Hefty, Park Manager, will talk with the adjacent landowner.

John Mitchell visited Natural Bridge SP, near Baraboo, and the park is in poor shape for disabled turkey hunting. It is a rustic park and County Highway C goes right through the middle of the park. There have been a lot of turkeys seen at the park. Anthonette commented that this park has low visitation and is a rustic day use park. It was one of the first parks to be selected for the disabled turkey hunts in the mid-1980's. The terrain is difficult for some users with disabilities. Feedback has indicated that hunters with disabilities use the park.

John Mitchell had visited Kettle Moraine State Forest (SF)-Southern Unit-Ottawa Lake in southeast Wisconsin in early June. He said that one could drive to one of the blinds, but there was no signage for the blinds.

Anthonette Gilpatrick and Jim Rutledge plan to visit Belmont Mound and New Glarus Woods soon.

Anthonette and Steve Johnson plan to visit Wyalusing and Nelson Dewey soon.

Dotti said that Wildlife Management (WM) had a 3-year trial at Newport, Willow River and Interstate SP. Anthonette asked questions about the 3-year trial and the status of it. The trial period has ended and WM is writing administrative rules on it. A discussion followed regarding the process of who and when the pilots were identified. It could not be determined how these had been selected or when. Anthonette also mentioned that she would need to discuss the proposed new locations selected in SCR (Governor Dodge, Devils Lake, Mirror Lake and Wyalusing SP's) with Regional Parks and Facilities & Lands staff before any surveys are completed. Anthonette will get additional information from Andrea Mezera in WM.

Wildlife Management has said they will try to dedicate funding to making areas accessible for disabled turkey hunting in the State Parks. Anyone can donate funding to building new blinds or fixing existing blinds that are used for disabled turkey hunting. Julie mentioned that she has copies of turkey blind plans in her files. Steve also said he has access to some blinds as well. Dave said that these blinds could also be used for gun deer hunting.

General comment by Tom Zimmer was that he feels the DAC is finally making strides in making their presence known, being involved in items and issues for people with disabilities.

Agenda item – boat docks and fishing pier policy. Dotti handed out a *DRAFT* "Technical Assistance Sheet for Fishing Piers" that she had put together from working with Engineering staff, Fish Management and Habitat staff, the US Access Board and other Facilities and Lands staff. Once this is final it will be on-line.

The technical sheet will be used to assist grantees in the design of an accessible fishing pier. It's basically a 4-step process: first-Assessment, second -Design Criteria, third-Costing, promoting, funding and building, and fourth-Inclusion, inventory and public relations. There will be at least 3 design plans as part of the technical sheet. Doing this technical sheet also was one of the things we were lacking per the Fish and Wildlife Service Audit from 2003. The US Access Board has said issuing guidance and having signage for accessible piers are keys in helping people with disabilities.

Dotti drew on the chalkboard 2 design plans that are still being drafted and will be inserted next week. A discussion followed on these 2 design plans and about some of the points Dotti had written about in the draft.

Steve Lewis, from Facilities and Lands, is doing a boat access inventory. This survey will include fishing access data and hopefully, any old and new accessible fishing piers

will be part of the boat access inventory project. Fisheries Management and Habitat is putting some funding towards the project.

Agenda item – Crossbow permits. Werner, with Al's help, discussed a case where a person was denied a crossbow permit. By the time this came to our attention, this case had been resolved.

Agenda item (which was not on the revised agenda) - Werner was to do a letter stating the position of the DAC on the issue of lowering the age of hunters to 10. After discussion, Dotti drafted a letter that by consensus the DAC agreed with, and it asked for DPI and EEOC to be the source of age related abilities of 10 year olds. Werner will draft a letter, send it out by e-mail to the other DAC members for review, and then finalize it and mail it out to the DNR Secretary and the Conservation Congress.

Agenda item (which was not on the revised agenda) - Lobbying - Werner wanted to discuss lobbying with the DAC. He had been contacted by the Wisconsin Outdoor Alliance on the issue of lowering the age of hunters to 10. He just wanted to mention that if a lobbying group contacts other DAC members, they should refer the lobbyist to a DNR manager for the response. They should not respond as a DAC member. If they wish to respond as a private person, they should feel free to express their personal views.

During lunch Dotti had made available research/resource materials she had collected. She said these are available for DAC use. Anthonette pointed out the Access for Everyone publication held special interest for her and references ADA updates. Dotti said she would get additional copies for interested DAC members and Anthonette.

Agenda item – Bong State Recreation Area property and project updates. Dotti began the discussion by saying this area was almost an air base. Somehow, midway through construction, the need for an air base became obsolete. In Fall 1959, the State purchased this property. The entire property does not drain well. It has varied users - school groups visit the area, there is a dog training area, horse back riding, a model/remote plane area and fishing and/or hunting opportunities. There is a new development project in the works to clear land for a parking area so people with disabilities can hunt from their vehicle or get to blinds to hunt. It is being funded partly by timber sales.

Agenda item - Lakeshore SP plans. Dotti walked us through the plan for the State Park and surrounding area. The SP will basically be an island with no restrooms or shelters for now, these may be added later. There will be trails for walking/hiking/biking and habitat for fishing is going to be developed. The original plan was reviewed by Independence First, and Independent Living Center for people with disabilities located in Milwaukee. A meeting was held to cover accessibility issues that the Center had. A majority of their concerns are now taken care of in the current plan.

Agenda item - Goals update and reporting. Dotti handed out "Goals for the Disabled Advisory Council 2005". There are 8 of them.

1-Explore regional and legislative interest in promoting accessible cabins and be involved with the effort from the beginning to completion of the cabin. Regarding this goal, Kohler-Andrae SP has begun the effort of fund raising for a cabin to be built at their

property. John Kocourek is interested in assisting with the Kohler-Andrae project. If possible, the Kohler-Andrae Friends group would like to put the foundation in this fall. John Mitchell also has a friend who wants to make a donation to the project. John M wanted to know how to go about that, and John K will assist him on that. John K had a sample of the Friends first fundraising public relations piece.

2-Relevant administrative code changes. Bill Schwengel could not be present at this meeting to discuss these potential changes, but Julie had a situation that needed some clarification.

This specific case was a person with a Crossbow Permit that wanted to participate in the special gun deer hunt with his friend who has a Class A Permit. There was a very lengthy discussion of this and it was pointed out that the DAC seems to have conflicted itself regarding Class B permit holders and their participation in special hunts. Julie had a handout with 3 citations from 3 previous DAC meetings. The dates were 08/22/03, 03/26/04 and 12/10/04.

As a result of further discussion, **Tom Zimmer made a motion that all long-term (this needs to be defined) Class B's are permitted to apply for deer and turkey special hunts. If there is a need to prioritize (because of over subscriptions), the order will be Class A permit holders, Class C permit holders and then long-term Class B permit holders.** Further discussion occurred, and the motion was tabled. Dotti, John Mitchell and Tom will do a follow up and report back at the next DAC meeting.

In an effort to close the meeting by 3:00, the rest of the goals were deferred to the next meeting.

Agenda item – Action Requests - Julie handed out a list of **OUTSTANDING ACTION REQUEST FORMS**. She would like all of us to review the list and check for errors or items she might have missed.

It was after 3:00 at this time and Werner suggested we set the date for the next meeting.

September 9th will be the next meeting date. It currently is planned for at the Schmeckle Reserve Visitor Center meeting room. We also set the December 16th for the last meeting for the year. A location for the December meeting will be determined at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.